



## DGS Employee of the Week: Lt. Derwyn Parker

When Lt. Derwyn Parker of Maryland Capital Police (MCP) officially retires on December 31, he will have a long list of accomplishments to be proud of, including achieving the rank of Lieutenant, coordinating security for presidential visits to Annapolis, and making legendary actor James Garner laugh (more on that in a moment). For 30 years of “Doing Great Service,” Lt. Derwyn Parker is our DGS Employee of the Week.

The Maryland State House has played a prominent role throughout Lt. Parker’s life. While growing up, he spent the summers with his grandmother in Annapolis. For fun, Lt. Parker and his cousins would walk to the State House and run around the grounds screaming and laughing as they chased each other. He never imagined growing up to protect the historic building and its many occupants.

For the past five years, Lt. Parker has served as Commander of the MCP Annapolis Detachment overseeing more than 60 officers, security guards and police communications officers. The Detachment provides police and security to 19 buildings and 16 parking garages and surface lots that are part of the Annapolis Capital Complex, as well as traffic enforcement.

Lt. Parker says the busiest time of the year is during the legislative session when his team is responsible for security at rallies and press events. To ensure there are no surprises, crowd estimates are gathered to determine how many officers should be assigned. MCP also coordinates with State Police, local fire and police, as well as the city of Annapolis and St. John’s College because of its proximity. A walk-through of the event is also completed so that everyone is working from the same page. Lt. Parker says there are a lot of 12 hours days during the 90-day legislative session.

He credits his dad with helping him develop a strong work ethic. “My father always told me to learn something new from somebody every day. So that’s what I strive to do -- work hard and learn what I can. That advice has certainly helped me in my career and life in general.”

Lt. Parker has met a lot of famous people while working in Annapolis, but the one that stands out the most is *Rockford Files* star James Garner. He says that years ago, Garner was walking out of the Governor Calvert House when Lt. Parker called out to him “Hey Rockfish,” which made Garner laugh and greet him with, “Good morning officer.” For those of you who aren’t diehard *Rockford Files* fans, “Rockfish” was the name the character played by Isaac Hayes (yes, the singer Isaac Hayes) mockingly called Jim Rockford to annoy him.

When he retires, Lt. Parker says he’s going to focus on getting more exercise and making healthy choices. A car enthusiast, he’s also planning on fixing up his hot rod, a 1973 Plymouth Duster 340.

MCP Police Chief Michael Wilson says Lt. Parker has made a real impact and will be missed. “Lt Parker has done an outstanding job in Annapolis and has gained the trust and respect of the people he has worked with over the years. It takes a special talent to deal with all the issues that arise in the capital city. Lt Parker became an expert in the field. The Annapolis Detachment will miss his leadership and



guidance. Over the years I have been happy to call him a true friend. I will personally miss his outgoing personality, leadership and all the institutional knowledge that he will be taking with him. On behalf of Secretary Collins, and the men and women of the Maryland Capitol Police, I want to congratulate Lt. Parker on his upcoming retirement.”

DGS would like to thank Lt. Parker for three decades of **Doing Great Service** and wish him well in his future endeavors.